

**Historical Timeline
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
Southern District of Iowa**

- 1800** Article I, Section 8, Clause 45 of the United States Constitution empowered Congress “to establish uniform laws on the subject of bankruptcies throughout the United States.” Congress exercised this power by enacting bankruptcy statutes in 1800, 1841 and 1867 to deal with the effects of specific economic downturns. These laws were only temporary and were repealed once economic conditions stabilized.
- 1845** Congress organized Iowa as one judicial district and authorized one judgeship for the district court. The U.S. district court in Iowa, not being assigned to a judicial circuit, was granted the same jurisdiction as U.S. circuit courts, except in appeals and writs of error, which were the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- 1846** Iowa admitted as a state.
- 1862** Congress repealed the circuit court jurisdiction of the U.S. District Court for the District of Iowa, established a U.S. circuit court in the district, and assigned the district to the Ninth Circuit.
- 1882** Iowa divided into two judicial districts, the Northern and the Southern, with one judgeship authorized for each district. Congress designated Keokuk, Des Moines and Council Bluffs as seats for the Southern District.
- 1898** The Bankruptcy Act of 1898 the first comprehensive bankruptcy statute, gave district courts exclusive jurisdiction over bankruptcies. The Act established the position of referee to be appointed by the district court judges and to serve as administrator for bankruptcy cases.
- 1920** Referees in Bankruptcy were appointed as follows: A.M. Antrobus, Burlington; William J. Roberts, Keokuk; F.A. Cooper, Davenport; J.W. Kridlebaugh, Chariton; D.W. Bates, Albia; Ingalls Swisher, Iowa City; Fremont Benjamin, Council Bluff; Frank J. Cooper, Des Moines.
- 1933** John D. Denison appointed Referee.
- 1936** Roy C. Fountain appointed Referee. He served until 1942 when he was called to active duty during World War II. Phillip Cless acted on a temporary basis until Referee Fountain returned from the War.
- 1938** Chandler Act established relief chapters in bankruptcy. The Act expanded the judicial responsibilities of the referees who assumed more and more of the bankruptcy work of the district judges.

- 1946** Referees were paid from fees collected. A fixed salary in keeping with the fulltime duties of the referee's position replaced this method in 1946.
- 1951** Gibson C. Holliday appointed Referee.
- 1962** Richard F. Stageman appointed Referee.
- 1973** On April 20, 1973 William C. Hanson, Chief Judge of the Southern District of Iowa ordered, "The Referee in Bankruptcy of the United States District Court in the Southern District of Iowa shall be known as and designated 'Bankruptcy Judge'." Richard F. Stageman was designated Bankruptcy Judge.
- 1978** The Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1978 passed by Congress. The Act established a system of bankruptcy courts separate from the U.S. district courts. Bankruptcy referees who had been selected by the district court judges were designated Article I judges. The reform act also revised and codified Title 11 of the U.S. Code, which contained the substantive and procedural laws of bankruptcy.
- 1979** Marguerite F. Lary appointed Bankruptcy Clerk of Court
- 1984** The Bankruptcy Amendments and Federal Judgeship Act becomes law. Congress declared bankruptcy courts to be units of the U.S. district courts and provided for the appointment of bankruptcy judges by the U.S. Court of Appeals.
- William C. Stuart, Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court entered an order on June 28, 1984 in response to the Supreme Court's decision in Northern Pipeline Construction Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co. All cases under title 11 of the U.S. Code were ordered to be referred "to the magistrates of this district who have been authorized to handle bankruptcy matters."
- On July 12, 1984 Judge Stuart appointed Judge Richard F. Stageman as a full-time Magistrate Judge specially authorized to handle all bankruptcy matters. On July 30, 1984 another order was entered that deemed Judge Stageman to be fulfilling the office of full-time bankruptcy judge of this district.
- 1986** Judge Stageman retired. On September 26, 1986, Donald P. Lay, chief Judge, 8th circuit Court of Appeals ordered Judge Stageman to serve as a recalled judge.
- Lee M. Jackwig appointed Bankruptcy Judge on November 1, 1986. Judge Stageman stepped down as a recalled judge on November 3, 1986.

Bankruptcy Judges, United States Trustees, and Family Farmer Act passed. This legislation made the U.S. Trustee system (formerly a pilot program operating only in a few jurisdictions) national in scope, with the exception of North Carolina and Alabama. The 1986 amendments also enacted Chapter 12 to deal with the adjustment of debts of a family farmer with regular annual income.

- 1987** Russell J. Hill appointed Bankruptcy Judge on November 2, 1987. Judge Jackwig appointed Chief Judge. Mary M. Weibel appointed Clerk of Court on June 26, 1987.
- 1994** Bankruptcy Reform Act of 1994 enacted. These amendments established the bankruptcy appellate panel (BAP) in each judicial circuit, increased compensation for trustees in chapters 7 and 11 cases, and increased the debt limits in chapter 13 cases and clarified the authority of bankruptcy judges to conduct jury trials.
- 1995** The United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Iowa relocates to the new United States Court House Annex.
- 2000** Judge Lee M. Jackwig appointed to an additional fourteen year term.
- 2001** Chief Judge Russell J. Hill retired effective November 1, 2001. Appointed Recall Judge on November 2, 2001 for the period of one year and a day..
- 2002** Eighth Circuit Judicial Council approved the request for a recall of Bankruptcy Judge Russell J. Hill for the period of one year and on day, commencing November 2, 2002.